

**THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
and Uniform Compliance Guidelines
ISSUED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS**

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NEW LAWS AFFECTING SCHOOL CORPORATIONS

The following is a digest of some of the laws passed by the 1997 Regular and Special Sessions of the General Assembly affecting school corporations. Please note the effective dates. Some of the laws do not pertain directly to school corporations but are included in the digest for ready reference to the covered subject matter.

The digest is not intended as an expression of legal interpretation. Nor is the digest intended to be all inclusive. References in the digest will be to the Indiana Code in the following form (Amends IC 20-5-2-2) (Amends Indiana Code, Title 20, Article 5, Chapter 2, Section 2).

PUBLIC LAW 2 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 7. EFFECTIVE VARIOUS DATES. TAX RATES, PETITIONS, BUDGETS, CREDIT CARDS. Amends IC 6-1.1-20-3.2 concerning the petition and remonstrance process to provide filing of petitions in compliance, not earlier than thirty (30) days or later than sixty (60) days after publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1. Also provides a petition or remonstrance described must verify compliance before the petition or remonstrance is filed with the county auditor. Requires instructions to be provided.

Amends Item 6 to provide withdrawal of a petition carries the same consequences as a defeated petition. Also amends Item 7 to provide after the process, a political subdivision is not required to follow any other remonstrance or objection procedures under any other law related to bonds or leases. However, compliance is still required with IC 6-1.1-18.5-8 or IC 6-1.1-19-8.

Adds IC 20-1-1.1-9 concerning Department of Education grants passed on to school corporations in Title 3 of Public Law 103-227.

Adds IC 20-1-1.1-10 concerning approval of plans and specifications for construction and repair of school buildings.

Adds IC 20-5-2-1.2 to IC 21-2-17-1.

Amends IC 21-3-1.6-1.1 to define an ADM of a school corporation means the number of eligible pupils enrolled in a school corporation or in a transferee corporation.

Amends IC 21-3-1.6-1.1 concerning definitions.

Amends IC 36-1-8-11(c) concerning payments to political subdivisions for any purpose.

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Adds IC 36-6-4-19 provides the township executive may pay township funds for the purposes of supporting a drug awareness program that is implemented in schools.

PUBLIC LAW 5 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 346. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997 AND MAY 1, 2001. PUBLIC RETIREMENT FUNDS. Amends and adds to various sections of IC 5 Voluntary Supplemental Retirement Plans for Political Subdivisions.

PUBLIC LAW 6 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1783. EFFECTIVE VARIOUS DATES. PROPERTY TAX STUDY COMMITTEE. Establishes the Property Tax Study Committee to study and report on various tax matters. Makes various changes to IC 6-1.1 concerning assessing and tax rates, including changes to IC 6-1.1-18.5-11 to provide for per diem for local government tax control board members. Makes similar changes to IC 6-1.1-19-4.1 concerning school control board members.

Amends IC 21-2-11.5 and IC 21-2-15 to provide that for all years before 1999 the public hearing dates for proposed plans are not later than September 20.

PUBLIC LAW 8 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1404. EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 1997. LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS. Adds IC 2-6-1.5-0.5 and amends IC 2-6-1.5-5 to provide not more than fourteen (14) days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the last day the Governor must take action on enrolled acts passed during any session of the general assembly.

PUBLIC LAW 9 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1520. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. INDIANA CODE DISTRIBUTIONS. Amends IC 2-6-1.5-4 concerning the Legislative Service Agency providing copies of the Indiana Code to local officials.

PUBLIC LAW 10 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1542. EFFECTIVE VARIOUS DATES. STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS CALLED MEETINGS. OPTICAL IMAGING. STATE GRANTS. TEMPORARY LOANS. Amends IC 5-11-14-1 to provide that each official attending a conference called under this section be allowed for each mile necessarily traveled going to and returning from the conference by the most expeditious route, a sum for mileage at a rate determined by the county fiscal body.

Amends IC 5-15-6-3 as amended by Senate Enrolled Act 10, Public Law 47-1997 to provide "Original records" includes the optical image of a check when:

- (1) the check is recorded, copied, or reproduced by an optical imaging process described in IC 5-15-6-3(e);
- (2) the drawer of the check receives an optical image of the check after the check is processed for payment.

IC 5-15-6-3(f) now provides original records may be disposed of only with the approval of the commission according to guidelines established by the commission. However, the guidelines established by the commission concerning the disposal of financial records must be approved by the State Board of Accounts before the guidelines become effective.

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TEMPORARY LOANS

Amends IC 36-1-8-4 to add item (b) if the fiscal body of a political subdivision determines that an emergency exists that requires an extension of the prescribed period of a transfer under this section, the prescribed period may be extended for not more than six (6) months beyond the budget year of the year in which the transfer occurs if the fiscal body does the following:

- (1) Passes an ordinance or a resolution that contains the following:
 - (A) A statement that the fiscal body has determined that an emergency exists.
 - (B) A brief description of the grounds for the emergency.
 - (C) The date the loan will be repaid that is not more than six (6) months beyond the budget year in which the transfer occurs.
- (2) Immediately forwards the ordinance or resolution to the State Board of Accounts and the State Board of Tax Commissioners.

STATE GRANTS

Adds IC 36-1-8-12 to provide (a) if a political subdivision received state grant money requiring local matching money, the political subdivision shall create a special fund and deposit the grant money and matching money into the special fund. The money in the fund may be used only for the purposes of the grant.

- (b) if a political subdivision completes the project for which the state grant money was provided and money remains in the fund:
 - (1) the political subdivision shall transfer the state's share of the remaining money to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the fund from which the grant was made; and
 - (2) the political subdivision's pro rata share of the remaining money reverts to the political subdivision's general fund.

Adds Section 38 the Local Government Finance Study Commission established by SEA 194-1997 to meet on the call of the co-chairs.

PUBLIC LAW 19 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1945. EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 1997 AND JULY 1, 1997. PUBLIC RECORDS - ENHANCED ACCESSED. ELECTRONIC DIGITAL SIGNATURE ACT. Adds IC 5-14-3-3.6 providing a public agency may provide enhanced access to public records maintained by the public agencies including through the computer gateway administered by the Intellenet Commission established under IC 5-21-2.

Amends IC 5-14-3-9 concerning denials of disclosure by public agencies or requests made by telephone and facsimile.

Adds IC 5-21-6 to provide for the Enhanced Data Access Review Committee.

Adds IC 5-22 concerning the Electronic Digital Signature Act.

PUBLIC LAW 21 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 178. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. SURPLUS COMPUTER HARDWARE. Adds IC 4-13.4-2-12.6 concerning surplus computer hardware that is not usable by state agencies. Item (d) provides surplus computer hardware available for sale must be offered first to an educational entity. Notice of the sale must be given to the corporation for

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educational technology and to each school corporation through publication in a publication of the Department of Education or other appropriate association or department. Item (e) sealed bids shall be delivered by educational entities to the Office of the Commissioner before the date of the sale to educational entities. Surplus personal property shall be sold to the highest responsible bidder as determined by the Commissioner. The Department shall deliver possession of the surplus property to the successful bidder after the bidder submits an executed purchase order to the department. Item (f) if the surplus computer hardware: (1) is not sold to an educational entity under this section; and (2) had an original purchase price of more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500); the property shall be offered for sale to political subdivisions as described in section 12.5 of this chapter.

Adds IC 4-13.4-2-12.7 concerning donation of surplus computer hardware to an educational entity or a school corporation if the equipment is not sold.

PUBLIC LAW 22 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 472. EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 1997, JULY 1, 1997, JULY 1, 1998. COLLECTION AGENCY SERVICES. Amends IC 5-17-4-2 to provide that a unit of local government may (1) contract with a collection agency to collect any amount owed to the local unit of government; and (2) authorize a collection agency in a contract for collection services to collect from the debtor a collection fee.

Adds IC 5-17-4-4 to provide a unit of local government or an agency of a unit of local government may award a contract for collection services used in any procedure authorized by statute.

Adds IC 5-22-6.5 to provide a unit of local government or an agency of a unit of local government may let contracts for the performance of certain services.

Also adds similar provisions to IC 5-17-4-2 and IC 5-17-4-4.

PUBLIC LAW 28 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1784. EFFECTIVE VARIOUS DATES. ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER, STATE TAX LIABILITY. Amends various chapters of IC 6 concerning state taxes including IC 6-3-4-8.1, effective January 1, 1998, decreasing to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) the amount for which the entity shall remit the monthly withholding taxes due by electronic fund transfer (as defined in IC 4-8.1-2-7). The transfer shall be made on or before the date the remittance is due.

PUBLIC LAW 32 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 163. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS. Amends and adds to IC 4-23-24.2 concerning appointments for vacancies.

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PUBLIC LAW 34 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1874. EFFECTIVE VARIOUS DATES. PETITION PROCEDURES. Amends IC 5-1-1-1 concerning leases executed before March 31, 1997.

PUBLIC LAW 38 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1370. EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 1997 AND JULY 1, 1997.

PUBLIC ADVERTISING. PERFORMANCE REPORT. Amends IC 5-3-1-4 to now provide (a) whenever officers of a political subdivision are required to publish a notice affecting a political subdivision, they shall publish the notice in two (2) newspapers published in the political subdivision. Part (c) is amended to provide if there is only one (1) newspaper published in the school corporation, then publication in that newspaper alone is sufficient. Part (d) is amended to provide if no newspaper is published in the political subdivision, then publication shall be made in a newspaper published in the county in which the political subdivision is located and that circulates within the political subdivision.

Amends item (f) to provide a political subdivision may, in its discretion, publish public notices in a qualified publication or additional newspapers to provide supplementary notification.

The requirement in IC 5-3-1-4(a) is eliminated, concerning designation of the newspapers.

Adds section 5 to provide notwithstanding IC 5-3-1-0.4(3) as amended by this act, the definition of a newspaper in IC 5-3-1-0.4 includes a newspaper that has been entered, authorized, and accepted by the United States Postal Service for at least three (3) consecutive years as mailable matter of the (1) second class (as defined in 39 U.S.C. 3622); or (2) periodicals class. This section expires July 2, 1999.

Adds section 6 to provide notwithstanding IC 5-3-1-0.7(a)(9) the definition of a qualified publication in IC 5-3-1-0.7 includes a publication that has been entered, authorized, and accepted by the United States Postal Service as mailable matter of:

(1) requestor second class or of the third class (as defined in 39 U.S.C. 3623); or (2) standard mail (A) class; for the time published.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Adds section 7 to provide (a) not earlier than August 1, 1997, or later than August 15, 1997, the secretary of each school corporation in Indiana shall publish a performance report. The report must be combined with the

annual financial report published under IC 5-3-1-3. In the performance report the school corporation shall include the following information:

(1) On a school by school basis:

(A) a summary of the results of the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP) program under IC 20-10.1-16, subject to IC 20-10.1-16-7, including the percentage of students at each particular grade level who did not meet the state achievement standards adopted for the ISTEP program;

(B) student attendance rates;

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- (C) graduation rates;
 - (D) class size information; and
 - (E) a summary of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.) results.
- (2) Total at-risk funding and expenditures.
 - (3) Vocational education funding and expenditures.
 - (4) Special education funding and expenditures.
 - (5) Percentage of graduates pursuing higher education.
 - (6) The school corporation's expenditure per pupil from the general fund and the transportation fund.
 - (b) The school corporation may provide an interpretation or explanation of the information included under subsection (a).
 - (c) This Section expires January 1, 1998.

PUBLIC LAW 39 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1036. EFFECTIVE MAY 12, 1997 AND JULY 1, 1996 (RETROACTIVE). PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND INVESTMENTS. Adds IC 5-10-0.5 which provides limitations on investments made by the Public Employees Retirement Fund.

Also provides investments of the Indiana State Teachers Retirement Fund are subject to IC 21-6.1-3-9 including PL 37-1996.

PUBLIC LAW 43 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1584. EFFECTIVE VARIOUS DATES. INDIANA STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND. INVESTMENTS. Amends Sections of IC 5-10.5-2 concerning investment guidelines for these boards.

Adds IC 5-10.2-7 concerning Voluntary Supplemental Retirement Plans.

PUBLIC LAW 46 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 9. EFFECTIVE MAY 6, 1997 AND JULY 1, 1997. PUBLIC DEPOSITORIES AND INVESTMENTS. Amends IC 5-13-7 and IC 5-13-8-1 to remove designation requirements for local boards of finance.

Amends IC 5-13-8-1 to provide a political subdivision may deposit public funds in a financial institution only if the financial institution is a depository eligible to receive state funds. The State Board of Finance shall make available information concerning financial institutions eligible to receive state funds as may be requested by a local board of finance. A local board of finance may rely on certificates described in IC 5-13-9.5-1(d).

Also amends IC 5-13-8-6 concerning expiration of designations.

Also amends IC 5-13-8-7(c) to provide not later than thirty (30) days after a local board of finance revokes the commission of a depository, the local board of finance shall give written notice of the action to the Board of Depositories.

Repeals IC 5-13-8-8 concerning local boards of finance filing lists of designated depositories with the "State Board for Depositories".

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Amends IC 5-13-8-13 concerning designation of depositories to the State Board of Finance.

Amends IC 5-13-8-9; IC 5-13-9-3; and IC 5-13-9-5 and refers to deposits instead of investments.

Amends IC 5-13-9.5-1 to add: Except as provided in IC 5-13-8-1 and IC 5-13-8-7, designation of a depository to receive public funds of the state qualifies a depository to receive public funds of a political subdivision.

PUBLIC LAW 47 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 10. EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 1997. OPTICAL CHECK IMAGING. Amends IC 5-15-6-3 to provide as used in this section, "original records" includes the optical image of a check when: (1) the check is recorded, copied, or reproduced by an optical imaging process described in subsection (e); and (2) the drawer of the check receives an optical image of the check after the check is processed for payment.

Also amends section (e) to provide copies, recreations or reproductions made from an optical image of a public record described in this subsection shall be received as evidence in any court in which the original record could have been introduced if the recreations, copies, or reproductions are properly certified as to authenticity and accuracy by an official custodian of the records. Also provides original records may only be disposed of in accordance with IC 5-15-6-3(f).

Also amends section (f) to provide original records may be disposed of only with the approval of the commission according to guidelines established by the commission. However, the guidelines established by the commission concerning the disposal of financial records must be approved by the State Board of Accounts before the guidelines become effective.

PUBLIC LAW 48 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1067. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. HANDICAPPED PARKING - ENFORCEMENT OF VIOLATIONS. Allows cities and towns to appoint volunteers to issue summonses and complaints.

PUBLIC LAW 49 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1158. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1998. PUBLIC PURCHASING. Adds IC 5-22 to provide substantial changes in the public purchasing, contracting, and disposal of property statutes.

Public/private agreements. Adds IC 5-23 concerning public/private agreements and procedures.

PUBLIC LAW 56 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1539. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. PETITION REMONSTRANCE. Amends IC 6-1.1-20-3.1 to provide in item (5) each petition must be verified under oath by at least one (1) qualified petitioner in a manner described by the State Board of Accounts before the petition is filed with the county auditor under subdivision (6).

Also amends IC 6-1.1-20-3.2 to provide that the petitions for remonstrance must be verified in the manner prescribed by the State Board of Accounts. Also makes various other changes in the petition of remonstrance process.

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PUBLIC LAW 57 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1777. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1997 (RETROACTIVE); JANUARY 1, 1998. Homestead Credit to 10% from 1998 through 2001, 2002 and thereafter to 4%.

PUBLIC LAW 58 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1510. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. EMERGENCY PROPERTY TAX SHORTFALL. Adds IC 6-1.1-21-7 concerning a taxing unit receiving a loan to replace lost revenue as a result of an act of the United States Congress.

PUBLIC LAW 59 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 360. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997, FEBRUARY 28, 1998. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS. Amends and adds to IC 13 concerning environmental matters including hazardous substances on property acquired by political subdivisions.

PUBLIC LAW 62 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 375. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1998 AND JULY 1, 1997. SALES TAX, COMPUTER SALES. Adds IC 6-2.5-5-38 to provide that sales of qualified computer equipment are exempt from state gross retail sales tax, if (1) the seller is a service center or school; (2) the purchaser is a parent or guardian of a student who is enrolled in a school; (3) the qualified computer equipment is sold to the parent or guardian under IC 6-3.1-15-12.

Amends IC 6-3.1-15-12 to provide a service center may sell qualified computer equipment received by taxpayers under this chapter only to the following: (1) public or private elementary or secondary schools; (2) the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in grades 1 through 12 that is a participant in a buddy system project or enrolled in a school's computer education program. Parents or guardians must present proof that the child is a participant in a buddy system project or enrolled in a schools' computer education program; and the qualified computer equipment will be used by the child for an educational purpose.

Amends IC 6-3.1-15-13 to remove the five hundred dollars (\$500) limit on applicable computer sales.

PUBLIC LAW 65 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1785. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. SPECIAL FUELS. Amends and adds to various sections of IC 6-6-2.5 concerning reporting requirements to the Indiana Revenue Department and special fuels.

PUBLIC LAW 66 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1811. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCIES. Amends IC 10-4-1-23 to provide that emergency personnel may not be prohibited from traveling on local streets during the emergency in certain situations.

PUBLIC LAW 79 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1714. EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 1997 AND JULY 1, 1997. HYDRANT RENTAL. Amends IC 8-1-2-103 concerning customers being excluded from certain hydrant rental charge rate increases.

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PUBLIC LAW 116 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 316. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL. Adds IC 12-11-10-6 to establish the family support council to assist in developing state policies and programs that have an impact on individuals with disabilities in their families.

PUBLIC LAW 126 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 340. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM. Adds IC 13-8-21, Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program. Establishes the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund to provide money for loans or other financial assistance for the benefit of political subdivisions for the planning; designing; construction; renovation; improvements; expansion; or any combination of the above for drinking water systems that will facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations applicable. Provides for the charging of fees for cost and services incurred in review and consideration of applications for loans and other assistance to political subdivisions.

PUBLIC LAW 133 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1917. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. SOLID WASTE DISTRICTS. Amends IC 13-26 requiring notice to governmental entities with territory in proposed districts.

PUBLIC LAW 153 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1661. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. CONVEYANCE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY. Amends IC 20-5-19-1 to provide a school corporation (as defined in IC 36-1-2-17) may convey property owned by the school corporation to a civil city or other political subdivision for civic purposes if;

- (1) the board of the school corporation adopts a resolution recommending the transfer and conveyance;
- (2) the civil city or political subdivision agrees to accept the school property;
- (3) the members of the board for the school corporation execute a deed for the school property; and
- (4) the conveyance is not for payment or other consideration.

PUBLIC LAW 154 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 50. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. GOVERNING BODY ORGANIZATION. Adds IC 20-4-1-27.1 concerning organization of governing bodies in certain school corporations.

PUBLIC LAW 155 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1006. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT. Adds IC 20-5-2-7 concerning school corporations' policy concerning criminal history information for job applicants.

Also adds IC 20-5-2-8 in regards to school corporations and entities which the school corporation contracts for services and with employment applications and subsequent employment concerning conditions of various offenses.

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Also adds IC 20-6.1-3-7 concerning limited criminal history for applicants for a new license; renewal license; or a substitute teacher certificate.

Also amends IC 20-9.1 regarding transportation contracts and a bidder holding a public passenger chauffer's, or commercial driver's license.

PUBLIC LAW 157 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1044. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. INSTRUCTIONAL TEXTBOOKS. Amends IC 20-10.1-10-3 to provide before a governing body may mutilate or otherwise destroy textbooks, the governing body shall provide at no cost and subject to availability one (1) copy of each textbook that is no longer scheduled for use to (1) the parent of each child who enrolls in the school corporation and wishes to receive a copy of the textbook; and (2) if any textbooks remain after distribution of the subdivision (1), to any resident of the school corporation who wishes to receive a copy of the textbook.

Amends IC 20-10.1-11-16 to provide similar provisions for the destruction of library books.

PUBLIC LAW 176 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 12. EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 1997. DECEPTIVE COMMERCIAL SOLICITATION. Adds IC 24-5-19 including notices concerning governmental entities.

PUBLIC LAW 204 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1057. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. JURY FEES. Amends IC 33-19 to increase certain jury fees to \$15 per day while serving and to \$40 per day after the jury is impaneled.

PUBLIC LAW 214 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1230. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. PUBLIC SERVANTS. Amends IC 35-44-2-3 concerning persons falsely representing to be public servants.

PUBLIC LAW 228 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 418. EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 1997 AND JULY 1, 1997. MILITARY BASE REUSE AUTHORITY. Amends and adds IC 36-7-30 concerning fees implemented by reuse authority.

PUBLIC LAW 232 - HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1361. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. 1997 FIRE FIGHTERS' PENSION AND DISABILITY FUND. Amends IC 36-8-8-10 concerning retirement after twenty (20) years of active service and benefits to certain retired members.

PUBLIC LAW 242 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 194. EFFECTIVE APRIL 30, 1997. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE STUDY COMMISSION. Makes several non-code technical corrections to original Public Law concerning the Commission.

Amends Public Law 172-1994 to provide the Commission expires November 2, 2001.

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SPECIAL SESSION

PUBLIC LAW 253 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 5 (SS). EFFECTIVE VARIOUS DATES. PROPERTY TAX STUDY COMMITTEE, COMPUTER SALES, ELECTRONIC DIGITAL SIGNATURE ACT. Adds IC 2-5-24.1 concerning the Committee.

Adds IC 6-2.5-5-38, similar language to House Enrolled Act 375, concerning exempt sales of qualified computer equipment if (1) the seller is a service center or school; (2) the purchaser is a parent or guardian of a student who is enrolled in a school, (3) the qualified computer equipment is sold to the parent or guardian under IC 6-3.1-15-12.

Also adds IC 5-24, Electronic Digital Signatures Act concerning digital signatures on documents received by or filed with the State being effective if the signature meets certain criteria.

- (1) It is unique to the person using it.
- (2) It is capable of verification.
- (3) It is under the sole control of the person using it.
- (4) It is linked to data in such a manner that if the data are changed, the digital signature is invalidated.
- (5) It conforms to the rules adopted by the State Board of Accounts.

The State Board of Accounts shall implement and administer a method used by the State to conduct authenticated electronic transactions using digital signatures.

Repeals House Enrolled Act 1945-1997, Sections 6, 39, 41; Senate Enrolled Act 375-1997, Section 6.

Also provides the State Board of Accounts shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement IC 5-24.

PUBLIC LAW 255 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 003 (SS). EFFECTIVE JUNE 4, 1997 AND JULY 1, 1997. PROFESSIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AREA (PSDA). Adds IC 36-7-31.3 concerning PSDA.

PUBLIC LAW 258 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 12 (SS) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. Makes numerous changes to the workers' compensation and occupational diseases law.

PUBLIC LAW 259 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 11 (SS) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1997. Amends IC 22-4 concerning unemployment compensation and a single rate schedule.

PUBLIC LAW 260 - SENATE ENROLLED ACT 6 (SS) EFFECTIVE VARIOUS DATES. BUDGET BILL. Adds the budget for the State of Indiana and various school funding for the next biennium including textbook reimbursements.

Amends and adds to IC 5-2-10.1 concerning safe schools.

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Amends IC 20-8.1-6.1-8 to provide for credit on transfer tuition for distribution for academic honors diploma awards under IC 21-3-1.7-9.8.

Amends IC 20-8.1-6.1-9 concerning estimates for transfer tuition payments and receipts by March 1, and final statements being sent not later than October following the end of a school year. Statement must include:

- (1) A statement, to the extent known, of all transfer tuition costs chargeable to the state or school corporation for the school year ending in the current calendar year.
- (2) A statement of any transfer tuition costs chargeable to the state or school corporation and not previously billed for the school year ending in the immediately preceding calendar year.
- (3) A statement of any transfer tuition costs previously billed to the state or school corporation and not yet paid.

Also provides for installment payments not later than October 30, January 10, April 10, and July 10, following the school year in which the obligation is incurred.

Amends and adds to various sections of IC 20-10.1-4.6 concerning alternative education programs. Also adds IC 21-3-11 for alternative education grants of \$750 per full-time equivalent student with a match requirement of \$250 per full-time equivalent student.

Adds IC 20-10.1-25.5 Educational Technology Council.

Amends IC 5-17-5-1 concerning timely payment and late payment penalties.

Amends IC 6-1.1-19-5.1 regarding levy increase appeals for transfer tuition deficits.